

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

P40 83-0004/2

21 JUL 1983

The Honorable William P. Clark  
Assistant to the President for  
National Security Affairs  
National Security Council  
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Bill:

Unauthorized disclosures of classified information are destroying our intelligence assets and impairing our national security. Since the National Security Act of 1947 requires me to protect intelligence sources and methods, I am doing all in my power to stop the breakdown in security discipline. I ask for your help.

I am sending a letter to your Director of Public Affairs asking for assistance in defending against unauthorized disclosures and for early warnings of potentially damaging media stories or broadcasts. Specifically, the letter makes the following points:

°CIA's Public Affairs Office is prepared to assist responsible media contacts on stories concerning intelligence topics. The premise here is that there are journalists covering national security, foreign policy and defense issues who, as responsible citizens, are willing to protect intelligence sources and methods when concerns are flagged to their attention.

°When Intelligence Community Public Affairs officers learn of an imminent media story which could jeopardize intelligence assets, they are to inform CIA's Public Affairs Office immediately. I can then consider how to respond in order to protect sources or to limit the national security damage.

I also intend to invite your Director of Public Affairs and any other officials from your organization you designate to a meeting at the CIA Headquarters very soon, a meeting to convey thoughts on the unauthorized disclosure problem and, at the same time, solicit views on ways to combat this threat.

DCI  
EXEC  
REG

William P. Clark, Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs

I appreciate your assistance and look forward to meeting  
with your people to discuss this subject in further detail.

Sincerely,

/s/ William J. Casey

William J. Casey